

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 30-33. These sheets, which include Figs. 29A-33, replace the original sheets including Figs. 29A-33.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (4)

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-5 and 7-22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7, and Figures 30-33 are amended, without introduction of new matter, by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-5, 8-13, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,172,700 to Obata in view of JP 2001-138568 to Yamanaka et al. (hereinafter "Yamanaka"); Claims 7 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Obata and Yamanaka in view of JP 8-118722 to Sawada; and Claims 14, 15, and 20 were indicated as allowable if amended to recite the limitations of their base claims and intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Figures 30-33 are amended in view of the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Claim 7 is amended in view of the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 7 be withdrawn.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-5, 8-13, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Obata in view Yamanaka and the rejection of Claims 7 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Obata and Yamanaka in view of Sawada, those rejections are respectfully traversed.

The outstanding Office Action states that one skilled in the art would make the proposed modification of Obata in view of Yamanaka “to correct the inherent unevenness illuminance of the individual light emitting elements to produce a highly uniform light distribution across the image exposure area”.¹ Respectfully, the outstanding rejection is improper because the proposed modification would render Obata’s device unsatisfactory for its intended purpose or change a principle operation thereof.²

As shown by Figures 14A-B, Obata varies the exposure area of LED’s arranged on the edges of LED chips 3, in order to prevent the loss of half-tone images (i.e., to prevent “white stripes”).³ For example, if the LED’s arranged on respective edges of abutting LED chips 3 are spaced at an interval (e.g., between the third and fourth columns of Figures 14A-B) that is greater than the interval between LED’s arranged on the same LED chip 3 (e.g., between the second and third columns; between the fourth and fifth columns), then the exposure areas of the LED’s arranged on abutting edges are increased to compensate for the greater interval length. Thus, Obata teaches to vary the exposure areas of the individual LED’s.

On the other hand, Yamanaka teaches a fixed exposure area for each LED. More particularly, Yamanaka fixes the diameter of each LED’s exposure area at the same value by adjusting the power thereof.⁴ Yamanaka simplifies this “quantity of light amendment approach”⁵ by simultaneously lighting at least two LEDs of the same column/row, measuring I_{max} and I_{min} for each LED, and then adjusting power in accord with the measurements.⁶

Regardless of whether the prior or simplified approach is employed, Yamanaka teaches that the diameter of each LED is fixed to the same value. Conversely, Obata teaches

¹ Office Action, 12/28/2005, page 5.

² See MPEP 2143.01.

³ Obata, col. 8, line 54 – col. 9, line 3.

⁴ Yamanaka, para. 6.

⁵ Yamanaka, para. 8-9.

⁶ Yamanaka, para. 9-10.

that the exposure areas of the LED's are varied to compensate for the increased interval between LED's of adjacent LED chips 3. Thus, the proposed modification of Obata in view of Yamanaka would render Obata's device unsatisfactory for its intended purpose or change the principle of operation thereof.⁷

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-5, 8-13, 21, and 22, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Obata in view Yamanaka, and the rejection of Claims 7 and 16-20, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Obata and Yamanaka in view of Sawada, be withdrawn.

Respectfully, the Office Action does not sufficiently address the features of the dependent claims. For example, in apparent reference to Claims 3 and 5, the Office Action states that Obata does *not* teach "the determination of the correlation between the light volume and the property value of the light emitting device, and the compensation value being a driving current";⁸ but provides no indication as to how the proposed modification cures this deficiency.

Further, Applicants note that the asserted motivation to modify Obata must suggest the substitution that is the difference between the *claimed invention* and the prior art.⁹ Thus, the asserted motivation must suggest that one skilled in the art should modify Obata's device to include the features of the dependent claims. For example, with respect to dependent Claims 3 and 5, the asserted motivation must suggest that one skilled in the art should modify Obata's device to acquire "a correlation between the light volume and the property value for each of the light emitting devices, based on a result of measuring the property value corresponding to the light volume"; and to determine "the light volume of each of the light emitting devices using a compensation value for a driving current". No such suggestion is provided by the asserted motivation.

⁷ See MPEP 2143.01.

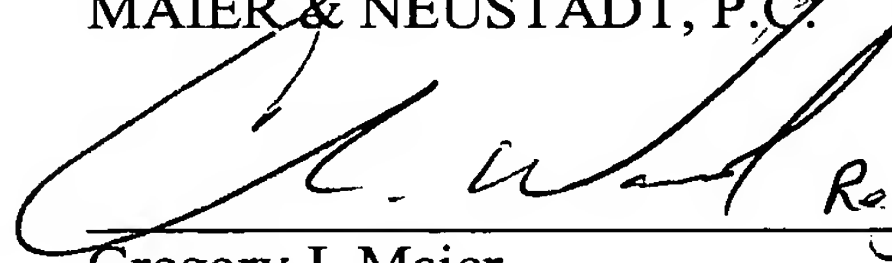
⁸ Office Action, 12/28/2005, page 4.

⁹ In re Vaeck, 20 USPQ2d 1438, 1444 (CAFC 1991).

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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